

Listing of the Claims:

44. (cancelled)

45. (cancelled)

46. (cancelled)

47. (cancelled)

48. (cancelled)

49. (cancelled)

50. (cancelled)

51. (cancelled)

52. (cancelled)

53. (cancelled)

54. (cancelled)

55. (cancelled)

56. (allowed) A hybrid optical steering system comprising:

a first substrate body defined by an upper surface and a lower surface and formed with at least one cavity including an upper cavity formed on the upper surface of the substrate body and a primary optical path for accommodating the passage of a light beam aligned in a predetermined orientation with the upper cavity;

a second substrate body defined by an upper surface and a lower surface, said second substrate body having a lower cavity formed on its upper surface, said lower cavity having a predetermined alignment with respect to the upper cavity;

a suspended bridge spanning the primary optical path at a juncture between the primary optical path and the upper cavity;

a beam steering assembly having a steerable element positioned substantially adjacent the upper cavity for controllably directing the light beam through at least a portion of the first substrate body; and

a hinge for flexibly anchoring the beam steering assembly to the suspended bridge wherein the beam steering assembly has at least one reflective surface and is rotated towards the upper cavity so that an impinging beam of light emanating from the primary optical path is controllably deflected in a direction generally from the upper cavity to the lower cavity and an impinging beam of light entering from the lower cavity is controllably deflected in a direction generally from the lower cavity to the upper cavity towards the primary optical path.

57. (allowed) The optical apparatus according to claim 56 further comprising:

a secondary optical element for accommodating a beam of light disposed within the lower cavity of the second substrate body; and

means for aligning the secondary optical element within the lower cavity so that

(i) the secondary optical element is substantially centered in the lower cavity and

(ii) the optical axis of the secondary optical element is aligned at a predetermined angle with respect to the lower surface of the first substrate body.

58. (allowed) The optical apparatus according to claim 57 wherein the secondary optical element is selected from the group consisting of optical fibers, refractive optical elements, reflective optical elements, phase optical elements, light detectors, beam splitters, lasers, light emitting diodes, incandescent light sources, fluorescent light sources, natural light sources, and plasma light sources.

59. (cancelled)

60. (cancelled)

61. (cancelled)

62. (cancelled)

63. (cancelled)

64. (cancelled)

65. (cancelled)

66. (cancelled)

67. (cancelled)

68. (cancelled)

69. (cancelled)

70. (cancelled)

71. (cancelled)

72. (cancelled)